

THEY LEAD THE WORK

Rev. I. Walton and Smith Frampton on guard—Sketches of the Leaders of the Ex-Slave Movement—Why they champion the Cause.

Rev. Smith Frampton, of Charleston, S. C., has been appointed President of the National Industrial Council of America, whose headquarters are at 503 D street, northwest, Washington.



REV. SMITH FRAMPTON,
Vice President.

D. C. Mr. Frampton is a South Carolinian by birth and is forty-four years of age. He is a strong advocate of the Republican party, and says that while the same has not done anything for him personally, it has helped his people and he has common sense enough to know that all cannot hold office at the same time. While there might be some men in the Council who have never voted a Republican ticket, still the Council as an organization is Republican; its purpose being to look after the interests of the ex-slave and freedman. As it develops in strength it will consider partyism but not at this time, for it expects to stand by the man who stands for the people. It appreciates help from any one who is in sympathy with the cause for which it is working.

Mr. Frampton states that the people on the rice farms in South Carolina, receive from twenty-five to forty cents a day for their labor, being paid by the commissary. On the truck farms, he says, they are paid off in pasteboard and pewter five cent pieces. In the cotton-field they contract to give two days and the balance is made up in rations. Hundreds and thousands of them have passed away as a result of the hardships of former days. After having been set free they were left upon the hands of their former owners, as no appropriation had been made for their support and maintenance. They did not beg their way into the English Colonies, but were fooled to America in order that they might be held in bondage, without any recompense for their hard and arduous labor.

A few days ago, while Mr. Frampton was making a speech, a man told him that the Negroes were not worth anything more than their raiment, food and shelter. His reply was as follows: "Then I would not have had them, but would have given them their freedom, so as not to have had any cause for war." Continuing with his speech, Mr. Frampton said, "Gentlemen, some appropriation should be made for the support of the few poor old ex-slaves that are living, thus taking them from off the hands of others, who are only able to take care of themselves."

"They are at the door knocking, do something for them, remembering the words of Christ when he said, 'The Poor we Have With us Always.'"

Rev. I. L. Walton, was born in Tennessee on the 13th day of December, 1854. He was elected Secretary and Business Manager of the Ex-Slave Petition Assembly at Madison Arkansas, January, 1897, which was the first Ex-Slave Association chartered in the United States, at Little Rock, Ark., under his management. The Assembly flourished in many states. The organ of the Assembly was edited by Mr. Walton, then known as the Ex-Slave Assembly, which was published weekly at Madison, Ark., and was successful from 1897, the date of

its birth. The Assembly soon found its way into the journalistic world and acquired thousands of friends. By this means the association soon secured over one hundred agents in various states, and it soon had thousands of members who did not hesitate to give assistance to the Assembly and its agents.

While travelling in Hammond, La., Mr. Walton received a telegram August 11th, 1899, stating that the Post Office Department had issued a Fraud Order against him and the Ex-Slave Petitioner's Assembly. This caused much excitement among the Assemblies in the various states. Mr. Walton's attorney promptly notified the P. O. Department, that the order was unwarranted and without a foundation. After consultation with his lawyers Mr. Walton continued to travel among the people, telling them that there was no fraud upon his part, as every paper published by him warned the people against misrepresentation of the organization.

The object of the E. P. A. was to organize Ex-Slave Assemblies throughout the United States for the purpose of making a petition strong enough to be respected by this government. Some of the leading colored men failed to give their assistance. Negro like, they persisted in the spirit of "If I can't be boss, then I will tear up the busi-



REV. I. H. WALTON,
Secretary and Treasurer.

ness." Notwithstanding, he labored under the burden of a Fraud Order, relief came from the decision of the U. S. Court, in the first Congressional District of Arkansas, whose Grand Jury in November, 1899, claimed to have found a true bill against Rev. Walton, he being notified of the same by telegram, at Charleston, S. C.

Being as devoted to his people as a child to its mother, it was never intended by Mr. Walton, to commit a fraud upon them; thus he was greatly surprised to have been notified of the bill being found against him by the iron hand of Uncle Sam. He continued to work, and about the close of October, the Ex-Slave Assembly organ of the E. P. A., was promptly Fraud Ordered, leaving him without a mouth-piece. This did not discourage him, but only made him more zealous in his undertakings. He therefore issued another paper known as New Life, which was promptly rejected by the P. O. Department as second class rates. The E. P. A. then changed its name at a National Convention held at Baton Rouge, La., Dec. 19th to 21st, 1899, and selected an organ known as the Afro-American, the same being edited and managed by Mr. Walton until Sept. 24, 1901.

On Dec. 23, 1899, Mr. Walton returned home and gave bond for his appearance in the U. S. Court, at Helena, March, 1900. When the case was called up, it was promptly dismissed, so away went the Fraud Order.

To-day the organization, of which Mr. Walton still remains the leader, is known and distinguished as the National Industrial Council of America, whose membership to date is about one hundred and seventy-five thousand, (175,000). It is the ardent desire of the association, that every Negro who might read of their work will heartily join them in their great efforts, remembering that "In union we stand, divided we fall."

Address all communications to I. L. Walton, No. 503 D St. N. W., Washington, D. C.

News in Gotham.

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This noise and bombast excites the enmity and envy, not only of Southern white men, but of Northern white men, who are not so enamored of the Negro as their fathers were. It embarrasses and sometimes hinders the appointive power from doing even more for it than it is doing. What we need more than anything else except money and "Hoss" sense, is a liberal supply of modesty. If we could stop cackling for a year, and let events eventuate, politically and otherwise, the enemy wouldn't know so much about our movements, intentions and prospects. The Hebrews are pretty good at capturing and holding offices in this state, but they don't make any noise about it; they just get the office. The President of the borough of Manhattan, Hon. Jacob Canter, is a Hebrew and a very fine gentleman, yet no Hebrew organization has deemed it necessary to acquaint the world of the fact of his Hebrew origin. He is simply a man, in a man's place, doing a man's work. If he were a Negro his fool friends would make him a target for attack by their indiscreet boastings and "jackassical pufferoonery" of him.

I have said that this Negro question, so-called, was never more acute than it is at present.

Not only the Democratic press, but some of the great Republican newspapers of the country have been influenced against us by the President's action in the Crum case and his manly reply to ex-Representative Hemphill, of South Carolina and his accomplice in their conspiracy to defeat the nomination of Crum and ultimately his confirmation by the Senate. The Democratic press is bold insulting and defiant. The Republican press is apathetic, indifferent, sarcastic. There is every indication that we are drifting into such a mental state in the republic of indifference in the North and aggressive in the South, until this question will again become one of the most serious in human affairs.

All we can do is to have faith and go ahead and do the best we can.

Behind all the noise from the Democratic press, Democratic statesmen and the cowardly acquiescence of reputed Republican journals and orators in the demand for the effacement, politically, of the Negro is the motive.

Primarily the purpose of this anti-Negro agitation is to get the Republican party in a position where it will do something to forfeit the confidence and support of many of the Negroes of the North. There is method in the alleged madness of these "outraged" white men of the South, and they are playing the game of politics with skill and their usual dispensation. But they cannot win out, the motive is too transparent.

If colored men are as wise as they should be in a crisis like this, they will let the enemy do all the talking—colored men can well afford to "grant to these viluperative and malignant spokesmen for the white South, the mercy of their silence."

They will pull every string in sight in their desperate and determined efforts to reverse the verdict to which he and his cohorts sullenly assented in 1865, at Appomattox, and which later was confirmed by the whole people, through the Representative in Congress.

The Yankees stamped out treason and secession in 1865, but they made a mistake in not hanging every scoundrel who had raised his puny arm against the Federal authority, the constitution and the flag. These vipers have since fattened and grown strong and to-day they are just as bitter and

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